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(CIA AND THE MEDIA)

(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) - A SPOKESMAN FOR SIGMA DELTA CHI, THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS, TODAY ASKED CONGRESS TO PROHIBIT RECRUITMENT OF JOURNALISTS AS SPIES, "PARTICULARLY DURING PEACETIME."

ROBERT LEWIS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SOCIETY'S FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMMITTEE, ALSO TOLD THE HOUSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE THE CIA SHOULD NOT BE GIVEN BLANKET EXEMPTION FROM DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

LEWIS, A WASHINGTON REPORTER FOR NEWHOUSE NEWSPAPERS, STRESSED THE SOCIETY'S CONCERN ABOUT JOURNALISTS BEING USED FOR INTELLIGENCE WORK.

"I CANNOT OVERSTATE THE DEPTH OF CONCERN IN THE NEWS MEDIA OVER THE QUESTION OF RECRUITING JOURNALISTS AS SPIES," HE SAID.

BOTH THE HOUSE AND SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEES ARE DISCUSSING PROPOSED CHARTERS FOR THE CIA, FBI AND INTELLIGENCE BRANCHES OF OTHER GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

THE CIA, WITH ADMINISTRATION BACKING, IS PUSHING FOR FEWER RESTRICTIONS.

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